

# NetworkNEWS Flash!

Illinois Department on Aging

Governor Rod R. Blagojevich  
Director Charles D. Johnson

December 5, 2003

## **State increases access to care at home**

Hundreds of older people in Illinois are expected to benefit when a Department on Aging rule changes Jan. 1, 2004, to expand eligibility for a program that offers support service to frail people on limited incomes.

### **Eligibility rule increases the asset level that determines eligibility**

The rule, which increases the asset level that determines eligibility for the Community Care Program from \$10,000 to \$12,500, is expected to open the door to service for about 600 frail elderly people 60 and over. It is the first time in 20 years that the asset level has been increased. Assets do not include home, car or personal furnishings.

"This is the holiday gift that we know older people want most," said Charles D. Johnson, director of the Department, which administers the program.

Johnson said that the revised rule will allow an estimated 600 frail older people to remain in their homes by providing case management, homemaker and adult day services.

"This increase will make it possible for more, older people to realize their fondest dream – to remain in their homes," Johnson said. "This increase in service to people who need us has been a priority for Governor Blagojevich and for our Department."

For more information, call the Department on Aging HelpLine, 1-800-252-8966 (Voice and TTY).

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